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Message Text

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51
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 DLOS-06 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /137 W
---------- 029671
R 092200Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8133
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1867

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, BL, CI
SUBJ: LANDLOCKED STATUS OF BOLIVIA

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: SANTIAGO 1836

1. SUMMARY. BOLIVIAN PREOCCUPATION WITH ACCESS TO PACIFIC IS AN INTERNAL POLITICAL SHIBBOLETH, ACCORDING TO UNDER SEC COLLADOS. ONLY PRACTICAL SOLUTION IS ACCESS UNDER SOME ECONOMIC INTERGRATION SCHEME WITHOUT BOLIVIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER CORRIDOR AND PORT INVOLVED, IN HIS OPINION. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCCASION COURTESY CALL APR 9, I TOLD UNDER SEC FOREIGN RELATIONS CLAUDIO COLLADOS NUNEZ THAT I HAD READ WITH INTEREST HIS PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENTS OF APR 5 (REFTEL) AND ASKED WHAT HE FORESAW IN TERMS SOME RESOLUTION OF BOLIVIA'S DESIRE
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FOR ACCESS TO PACIFIC.

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3. COLLADOS REPLIED THAT THIS QUESTION SETTLED BY WAR OF PACIFIC BUT HAD BECOME PART OF POLITICAL MYTHOLOGY OF BOLIVIA, AN INTERNAL ISSUE WITHOUT MERIT OUTSIDE BOLIVIA. EVERY TIME SOME BOLIVIAN LEADER NEEDED UNIFY COUNTRY AND NEUTRALIZE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, HE TURNED TO THIS ISSUE; BANZER HAS DONE THIS NOW. BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ASCRIBE COUNTRY'S UNDERDEVELOPMENT TO ITS LACK OF ACCESS TO THE SEA, BUT THIS PROPOSITION WILL SIMPLY NOT STAND UP TO CLOSE EXAMINATION, HE CONTINUED, SINCE LANDLOCKED NATURE OF BOLIVIA IS HISTORICAL FACT THAT LONG PREDATES WAR OF PACIFIC.

4. SOLUTION TO PROBLEM LIES NOT IN ACQUIRING SOME CORRIDOR TO PACIFIC BUT IN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF KIND WHICH GIVES BOLIVIA ACCESS WITHOUT SOVEREIGNTY, COLLADOS ARGUED. SOME ARRANGEMENT OF THIS KIND COULD CERTAINLY BE WORKED OUT, BUT WITHOUT GIVING UP ANY CHILEAN TERRITORY SINCE NO GOC COULD DO THIS --QUESTION OF APPROVAL OF PERU FOR SUCH CESSION UNDER 1929 TREATY OF ANCON IS NOT RELEVANT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. IN POINT OF FACT BOLIVIA HAS TRADITIONALLY HAD ACCESS TO CHILEAN PORTS AND THIS CHEAPER THAN TRANSITING THROUGH PERU-, ENTIRELY ASIDE FROM RATES QUESTION WHICH ARISES BECAUSE BOLIVIANS ENJOYED WINDFALL RATES DURING ALLENDE YEARS THROUGH PAYMENT IN BLACK MARKET CURRENCY.

5. DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION WOULD BE GREATLY FACILITATED WERE THERE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND CHILE, COLLADOS OBSERVED. HOWEVER, IN THIS AS IN OTHER ASPECTS OF QUESTION, BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES HAD PAINTED THEMSELVES INTO CORNER, AND DESPITE GOOD WILL AT HIGH LEVELS ON BOTH SIDES, COLLADOS DID NOT FORESEE ANY PRACTICAL OUTCOME IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
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Draft Date: 09 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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